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TRANSACTIONS

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TRANSACTIONS

OF

THE NEW ENGLAND CREMATION SOCIETY.

CONTAINING

A CONTINUATION OF THE HISTORIC ITEMS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT OF CREMATION IN NEW ENGLAND; DIRECTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED IN ARRANGING FOR INCINERATION; A DESCRIPTION OF THE CREMATORIUM OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CREMATION SOCIETY; AND OTHER MATTERS.

BOSTON, MASS.:
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY.
1894.

T. W. RIPLEY, PRINTER, 138 Congress Street, Boston.

THE NEW ENGLAND CREMATION SOCIETY.

COUNCIL FOR 1894.

President.

JOHN STORER COBB . . . Ames Building, Boston.

Vice-Presidents.

EDWARD FROTHINGHAM . 476, Beacon Street, Boston.
Mrs. GEORGE S. HALE . 5, Exeter Street, Boston.
ALFRED H. BOND . . 125, Milk Street, Boston.

Secretary.

JOHN A. BEVINGTON . . . P. O. Box, 2436, Boston.

Treasurer.

ALBERT S. PARSONS . . Cambridgeport Diary Co.

Executive Committee.

Mrs. WM. B. KEHEW . . 317, Beacon Street, Boston.
JOSEPH W. MERRIAM . 75, Milk Street, Boston.
Mrs. JOHN STORER COBB . High Street, Brookline.
CHARLES F. FARLOW . 92, State Street, Boston.
Mrs. GEORGE P. BRADLEY, 297, Beacon Street, Boston.

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS.

O. B. FROTHINGHAM . . . . . Boston.
HENRY B. PEIRCE . . . . . Abington.
JOHN HOMANS, 2d . . . . . Boston.
FRANCIS J. CHILD . . . . . Cambridge.
CHARLES H. HOBSON . . . . . Lowell.
EDWIN M. SHEPHERD . . . . . Malden.
THOS. A. DICKINSON . . . . . Worcester.
F. W. TAUSSIG . . . . . Cambridge.

91547

Address all communications to
THE REV. JOHN A. BEVINGTON,
Secretary of The New England Cremation Society,
P. O. Box 2436, Boston, Mass.

Checks and P. O. Orders should be made payable to
The New England Cremation Society.

All requisite forms can be obtained from the secretary or from Lewis Jones & Son, undertakers, No. 50, La Grange Street, Boston.

PREFATORY.

At the close of the third year of its existence, the council of The New England Cremation Society offers to its members, and to all who are interested in its objects, the following report, in which will be found an epitome of the work done in Boston during the year 1893.

In its last report the council was able to congratulate the friends of cremation upon the satisfactory manner in which the stock of The Massachusetts Cremation Society was being taken, and the prospect of an early commencement of work upon a crematorium in the neighborhood of Boston. Today it has the satisfaction of stating that the contemplated building has been so far constructed as to be in a condition to carry out the purposes for which it was designed, and that the first cremation therein has taken place.

Some changes have been made during the year in the by-laws of The New England Cremation Society. This has been done principally for the purpose of restoring the society to the condition in which it was before its incorporation. A copy of these by-laws will be found in the following pages.

Attention is again called to the terms upon which membership with the society can be obtained, and to

the general instructions relating to the cremation of deceased members. These instructions will be found slightly different from those given a year ago, because of the necessity for making them accord with the legal requirements of Massachusetts, as the crematorium which will, from this time, be used is within the boundaries of this commonwealth.

The council is pleased to state that the nucleus of a library has been obtained. Every member of the society will appreciate the advantage of this. The number of books is at present small, and the council ventures to express the hope that it will be increased during the present year. Donations of books, papers, and documents of all kinds bearing directly or indirectly upon cremation, burial, and cognate subjects will be thankfully received.

By Order of the Council,

JOHN A. BEVINGTON,
Secretary.

January, 1894.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

OF

THE NEW ENGLAND CREMATION SOCIETY,

FOR THE YEAR 1893.

IN the report issued by the council of The New England Cremation Society at the close of the year 1892, an epitome of the movement in New England up to that time was given. It was there seen that the first attempt to introduce cremation into this part of the United States was made in the year 1883, but that it was not until two years later that the efforts to form a society for carrying out this design were crowned with success. This society continued in existence about two years, when it was made so clear that the time was not yet ripe for a practical application of this method of disposing of the dead, that the directors decided to take the necessary legal steps for dissolving the association, and on October 16, 1888, obtained from the Supreme Judicial Court of the commonwealth a decree of dissolution.

The present society was organized in Boston, in January, 1891, and was incorporated in June,

1892. During the year 1893 regular meetings of its council were held, and at the end of that time it contained the names of 190 members upon its roll. At its annual meeting, held on December 19, 1893, the treasurer reported an expenditure of $147.38 and a balance in hand of $981.19, of which sum $270.61 was deposited to the credit of the general fund, to be drawn for the ordinary expenses of the society; and $710.58 composed the "Incineration Fund," which is the name given to a fund maintained for the purpose of carrying into effect the cremation of deceased members, and of which no portion is devoted to any other object.

After the transaction of the regular business on this occasion, a public meeting was held; and, after a few remarks by the president of the society, addresses were delivered by the Rt. Rev. William Lawrence, bishop of Massachusetts; Mrs. Alice N. Lincoln; Dr. James R. Chadwick, president of The Massachusetts Cremation Society; and the Rev. W. F. N. Finlay, of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The meeting was well attended, and the reception by the audience of the matter presented for its consideration was gratifying to all interested in the subject.

Bishop Lawrence opened his remarks by observing that cremation as a means of disposing of the bodies of the dead is worthy of the thoughtful consideration of Christian people, and then expressed his conviction that, under certain condi-

tions, it merited adoption by them for at least three reasons: —

1. Cremation is in behalf of the living.

The growth of cities, the expense of burial at great distances, the danger by burial from contagious diseases, the existence of cemeteries in thickly settled communities, and the possible contamination of water-supply suggest that under certain conditions the living may suffer through the burial of the dead. This danger is greatest among the thickly populated poorer districts.

Whatever tends towards the health of the people and towards the welfare of the poor concerns the church and appeals to the thought and action of Christian people.

2. Cremation is a reverent method of disposal of the bodies of the dead.

Those who uphold burial as the only method are certainly put upon the defensive. The condition of many old graveyards, the neglect of tombs and their possible desecration, are a shock to a reverent spirit. Such risks are reduced by cremation. All the details of the service and the incineration are consistent with reverence. It remains only for those who have the responsibilities of the crematories to so build and arrange them that they will be suggestive of a reverent and religious spirit.

3. Cremation is in harmony with Christian principles.

Certain conditions in the early days of the

church lead to the custom of burial. But that burial has been the custom for centuries is no proof that other methods are unchristian.

Christian thought, which in certain quarters moved towards strange and material views of the resurrection of the body, is now returning to the Christian principles, as expressed by St. Paul in the chapter which the English church has for centuries read in her service of Burial of the Dead, "it is sown a natural body: it is raised a spiritual body."

In conclusion, the bishop remarked that his interest in the subject was not from a feeling that cremation is in all cases necessary, but from a desire to prevent, so far as he could, any popular misconception that burial is Christian and cremation pagan. He wished to emphasize the fact that, rightly ordered, cremation is reverent and Christian.

Dr. Chadwick then followed with a few interesting words about The Massachusetts Cremation Society, and a description of the crematorium by Prof. Robert H. Richards, which will be found on page 45; and Mrs. Lincoln presented an earnest and thoughtful paper, which has been inserted in full, commencing at page 39.

At the conclusion of the council's report, to which allusion has been made, it was mentioned that the stock of The Massachusetts Cremation Society was being subscribed in a satisfactory manner, and the hope was expressed that the

society would soon be in a position to formulate its plans for a building, and begin the work of its construction.

With great satisfaction can the announcement now be made that this hope has been realized, and that, before the end of 1893, an incineration within the limits of the city of Boston was an accomplished fact. In matters relating to cremation in New England this cannot but be regarded as the most important event of the year, and The New England Cremation Society offers its sincere congratulations to the president and directors of her sister society at having succeeded in bringing it to pass. The first body reduced to ashes in the new crematorium was that of Mrs. Lucy Stone Blackwell.

When it is remembered that not more than seventeen years have passed since the incineration of the body of the Baron de Palm in the building which Dr. F. Julius Le Moyne had just put up in Washington, Pennsylvania, and that this was the first of the series of modern cremations in the United States; and when it is further considered that the oldest of our existing operative crematories was not in existence and prepared to receive subjects until the year 1884, the fact that there are now no fewer than seventeen matories in operation in our land, and that hese institutions upwards of 2,700 bodies been reduced to ashes, shows a very grati- extension of interest in this method of ing of our dead.

Gratification is felt, however, more at the regularly maintained increase of number year by year than at the total number of bodies cremated; for two thousand seven hundred is but a very small proportion of the deaths which have occurred in ten years. While the gradual expansion of the practice is gratifying, the aggregate result cannot be looked upon as satisfying. It indicates very clearly the necessity of persistent and active personal work, in order that public attention may be kept directed towards a matter so important to the general health.

In purchasing its ground and planning its building The Massachusetts Cremation Society has, very properly, had regard to the æsthetic aspect of the question, for attractiveness is a necessary element of attraction. In order to make the accessories of cremation, as here carried out, pleasant and inviting, and at the same time to provide the very best appliances, the capital stock of the society has been increased, and the council of The New England Cremation Society ventures to express the hope that those members of the latter who have not yet enrolled their names as stockholders in the other, will now do what they can to assist in the disposal of the shares. By this increase of stock an opportunity is offered to every member of the New England society to participate in the success which is bound to be achieved in a cause which they all desire to advance.

Now that this crematorium, of which the frontispiece to this pamphlet is a representation, is erected, and the bodies of those who die in New England can be incinerated in our neighborhood, the work of our society has become even more important than it was before this resource was provided. It is earnestly hoped, therefore, that every member of The New England Cremation Society will use his or her influence in an endeavor to increase its membership, and thereby augment its power for usefulness. If every member of the New England were a stockholder in the Massachusetts society, and every stockholder in the latter were a member of the former, a great impetus would be given to the substitution of cremation for burial, and from this centre would be disseminated an educational influence which, by changing our established method of disposing of our dead, would speedily remove from among us a potent agency in the propagation and spread of disease. All the members are therefore earnestly asked to co-operate with the council in extending our society's power for good, both by attending its meetings and by bringing in members, as well as by sending to the secretary newspaper and other notices relating to the subject of cremation.

NOTE. — The publication of this report has been unavoidably delayed, and it is gratifying to announce that, at the time of going to press, seventeen cremations have been conducted at the crematorium of The Massachusetts Cremation Society.

The New England Cremation Society.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1893.

AGGREGATE ACCOUNT.

To Balance from	1892,	$702.81	By Printing Transactions, etc. . .	$110.18
" Annual Subscriptions .	1893,	345.75	" Stationery and Postage . . .	25.20
" Life " . .	1893,	60.00	" Rent of P. O. Box	12.00
" Interest on Deposits .		20.01	" Balance in Bank	981.19
		$1,128.57		$1,128.57

GENERAL FUND.

To Balance from 1892	$212.31	By General Expenses	$147.38
" Subscriptions in 1893	200.25	" Balance in Old Colony Trust Company	270.61
" Interest on Deposit	5.43		
	$417.99		$417.99

INCINERATION FUND.

To Balance from 1892	$490.50	By Balance in New England Trust Company	$710.58
" Subscriptions in 1893	205.50		
" Interest on Deposit	14.58		
	$710.58		$710.58

We, the undersigned members of the Board of Audit, hereby certify that we have examined the books and vouchers of The New England Cremation Society, and have found the foregoing accounts to be in accordance with the same.

(Signed), J. Lowell Moore,
Jas. Richard Carter,
George H. Bodenschatz.

BY-LAWS

OF

THE NEW ENGLAND CREMATION SOCIETY.

NAME.

1. The name of this organization is THE NEW ENGLAND CREMATION SOCIETY.

OBJECTS.

2. The objects of this society are to disseminate sound and enlightened views respecting the incineration of the dead; to advocate and promote, in every proper and legitimate way, the substitution of this method for that of burial; and to provide facilities for the cremation of its deceased members.

MEMBERS.

3. The members of the society may consist of four classes,—active, associate, honorary, and corresponding members.

4. Active members shall be subdivided into annual and life members, of whom the annual shall be those who are regularly paying the yearly dues, and the life members those who shall have paid these dues for twelve successive years, or the amount of thirty dollars in one sum.

5. Associate members shall consist of the members of the various branches, or of persons residing at a distance of not less than ten miles from the city of Boston, from whom shall have been received the dues prescribed in section 10.

6. Honorary and corresponding members may be chosen by the council from among those who have distinguished

themselves in the promotion of cremation in any part of the world.

7. Active members only, who are not in arrears for dues, shall be qualified for election or appointment to any official position in the society; to vote at any election; or to debate and vote at any meeting, except as to matters relating to the incineration fund, upon which matters associate members shall have the same right.

PROPOSAL AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

8. Every application for membership must be made upon a form stating that the applicant is in sympathy with the objects of the society.

9. All members of the society shall be elected by the council, and applications for membership shall be laid before that body at the meeting next following their reception by the secretary.

FEES AND DUES.

10. The annual dues of an active member shall be three dollars; and of an associate member they shall be two and one-quarter dollars. All annual dues shall be payable, in advance, on the first day of January of each year.

11. Life members shall pay, within thirty days of their election, the sum of thirty dollars, unless longer time shall have been granted by the council.

12. Should any person be elected a member of the society during the last three months of any year, the first year's membership of such person shall not expire until the last day of December in the following year.

13. Of all the fees and dues received from life and active annual members not more than fifty per cent. shall be devoted to the ordinary current expenses of the society.

14. Of the fees and dues received from associate members, under section 10 of these by-laws, not more than one-third shall be devoted to the current expenses of the society.

15. By the payment of 75 cents, a member of any branch, on whose account have been received the fees prescribed for an associate member, may at any time become an active member of the society, and such extra payment shall be deposited to the credit of the general fund of the society.

16. No member shall, while in arrears for dues, be entitled to any of the privileges of the society.

17. After the receipt, from any active member, of the annual dues for twelve successive years, no further payment shall be required from such member. These payments for twelve successive years shall entitle such member to all the privileges of the society for the remainder of his or her life.

18. Any active annual member, not in arrears for dues, may become a life member by the payment, in one sum, of the difference between thirty-six dollars and the amount already paid in annual dues, less fifty cents for every year fewer than twelve that such annual dues shall have been paid.

19. An associate member may at any time become a life member by payment, in one sum, of the difference between thirty-six dollars and the amount of dues already received from such member.

20. Any member who has neglected to pay his dues for three months after the same were payable shall be considered in arrears, and shall be notified to that effect by the secretary. Should such notice be disregarded for a period of thirty days after having been mailed, the council may authorize the name of such member to be struck from the roll of members.

21. No person shall be regarded as a member of the society until the first year's dues shall have been received by the secretary or the treasurer.

22. Whenever any of the dues of an active annual member shall have been remitted by the council, such period of remission shall not be reckoned as a portion of the time necessary to entitle such member to a life membership; but the years before and after such remission shall, for this purpose, be considered as successive years.

23. Honorary and corresponding members shall not be required to pay any fees or dues.

OFFICERS.

24. The officers of the society shall be a president, three vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and an executive committee consisting of five members.

25. These officers shall together form the council of the society, and shall hold office for one year from the first day of January next following the date of their election, or until others have been elected to their places.

26. There shall also be a board of audit, consisting of three active members of the society, no one of whom shall, at the same time, be a member of the council.

27. The principal officer of every branch shall be, by virtue of his office, an honorary vice-president of the society.

28. The members of the council shall be elected by ballot on the third Tuesday of November in each year, and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to a choice.

29. From among the active members, who are not officers of the society, the council may choose not more than ten honorary vice-presidents, whose terms of office shall not extend beyond that of the council by which they shall have been chosen.

30. All honorary vice-presidents shall be entitled to attend the meetings of the council and to participate in all discussions thereat, but shall not have a voice in the decision of any question at such meetings.

31. The members of the board of audit shall be appointed by the president, prior to the first day of January next following the date of his election, and shall be subject to removal by him whenever, in his judgment, the welfare of the society shall demand such action. They shall hold office for one year from the aforesaid first day of January, unless they shall have been previously removed and others appointed to their places.

32. At any meeting of the society any one or more of the officers may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that seven days prior to the meeting

at which such motion is to be acted on, there shall have been mailed or otherwise sent to every active member, at his or her usual place of business or residence, a notice stating that a motion for the removal of such officer or officers will be introduced as a part of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

33. Whenever any officer is removed, an election may be immediately thereafter held to fill the vacancy thus created, and such election shall be for the unexpired portion of the term of the previous occupant, or until such newly elected officer shall have been removed and a successor chosen.

34. Whenever any office becomes vacant, otherwise than by the action of the society, as authorized in section 32 of these by-laws, such vacancy may be filled by the council for the unexpired portion of the term of the previous incumbent.

35. For the faithful performance of his duty the treasurer shall furnish such bond or bonds as may, from time to time, be required by the council.

36. The council shall have the general direction and control of the affairs, property, and funds of the society; but shall not, without an approving vote of the society, enter into any contract whereby an indebtedness of more than two hundred dollars shall be incurred by the society.

37. A majority of the board of audit shall affix its certificate of examination to every financial report presented to the society by the treasurer.

MEETINGS.

38. Meetings of the council shall be held not less frequently than once in each month; except June, July, August, and September.

39. A public meeting of the society shall be held in January of each year, and thereat shall be presented reports from the secretary and the treasurer, showing the progress of the society during the preceding year, and its condition at the end thereof. These reports shall be followed by an address from the president, and such other literary exercises as shall have been provided or approved by the council.

A meeting shall also be held on the third Tuesday of November, for the election of officers and the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

40. In addition to the meetings in January and November, meetings of the society may be held at such times and places as shall have been selected or approved by the council.

41. A special meeting of the council or the society may be called whenever it shall be deemed advisable by the president. Such a meeting of the society shall be called by the secretary upon the receipt by him of a written request signed by ten active members; and of the council, upon receipt by him of such a request signed by three members thereof.

42. Every request for a special meeting and every notice thereof shall state the object or objects for which such meeting is to be called, and no other business shall be transacted at such meeting. Such notices shall be mailed or otherwise delivered to the members at least four days prior to the date of the meeting.

43. At any meeting of the society ten active members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

44. Whenever a quorum is not present, the president or, in his absence, one of the vice-presidents or the secretary may adjourn such meeting to such time as may be determined upon by the members present.

45. In the absence of the president at any meeting of the society, one of the vice-presidents shall, if present, preside over the deliberations of such meeting; and, in the absence of all these officers, any active member present may be elected chairman.

46. Except as otherwise provided for, the proceedings at all meetings shall be conducted according to the rules laid down in Cushing's Manual.

THE INCINERATION FUND.

47. Of the fees and dues received by the treasurer, that portion which is excluded from the general fund under sections 13 and 14 of the society's by-laws shall be devoted

to the formation and maintenance of an "Incineration Fund."

48. Of the several amounts received from associate members under section 19 of the by-laws, $1.50 for every year fewer than twelve that such membership shall have existed shall be paid into this fund, and the rest into the general fund.

49. The purpose of the incineration fund is to provide facilities for carrying into operation the cremation of deceased members of the society.

50. All moneys belonging to this fund, and such as may be contributed, donated, or bequeathed thereto, shall, immediately upon their receipt by the treasurer, be placed in the designated repository or repositories, from which they shall not be withdrawn on any account other than that of carrying into execution the purpose of the fund; and all checks for the withdrawal of the same, or any portion thereof, shall be signed by the treasurer and countersigned by the president; or, in the event of the president's absence or inability, they shall be countersigned by one of the vice-presidents.

51. The manner in which this purpose shall be carried into execution shall be determined by the council; it being understood that every member not in arrears for dues shall be entitled, at his or her death, to cremation at the expense of the fund.

52. Such cost of cremation, paid out of this fund, shall not include the conveyance of the body to the place of incineration, nor any expense other than that of cremating the body, and, in a receptacle provided for that purpose by the friends of the deceased, delivering the ashes to the person or persons authorized to receive them.

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS.

53. These by-laws may be altered or amended by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting of the society called for that purpose, provided that a copy of the proposed alteration or amendment shall have been inserted in the notice by which such meeting was convened.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

[Life members in SMALL CAPITALS. Deceased members in *Italics*.]

Adams, C. Henry . . . Boston, Mass.
Alther, Emil . . . . Dorchester, Mass.
Apthorp, H. O. . . . . Milton, Mass.
Appleton, Nathan . . . Boston, Mass.
Arnold, George F. . . . Brookline, Mass.
ATKINS, JAMES D. . . . Florence, Mass.
Ayers, George D. . . . Malden, Mass.
Ayers, Mrs. George D. . . Malden, Mass.
Ayers, David, 2nd . . . Malden, Mass.

Baldwin, Frank F. . . . Wellesley Hills, Mass.
Barker, J. P. . . . . Boston, Mass.
Barnett, Miss Matilda J. . . Boston, Mass.
Barr, Miss Ellen M. . . . New Ipswich, N. H.
Bayles, James . . . . Lowell, Mass.
Bennett, Henry B. . . . Boston, Mass.
Bennitt, Dr. Francis M. . . Chicopee, Mass.
Berlin, Dr. Fanny . . . Boston, Mass.
Bevington, Rev. John A. . . Boston, Mass.
Bigelow, Miss Arria . . . Boston, Mass.
Bodenschatz, George H. . . Waltham, Mass.
Bond, Alfred H. . . . Jamaica Plain.
Boott, Francis . . . . Cambridge, Mass.
Bowen, Mrs. Mary C. . . Dorchester, Mass.
Bowles, Rev. Ada C. . . . Abington, Mass.
Bowles, Rev. B. F. . . . Abington, Mass.
BRADLEY, MRS. GEORGE P. . Boston, Mass.
Bradley, Harriet Lewis . . New York, N. Y.
Brazier, Miss Marion Howard . Boston, Mass.
Briggs, Miss Isobel L. . . Boston, Mass.

Bronson, Miss Mary N.	Boston, Mass.
Brown, Miss A. M.	Boston, Mass.
Brown, Charles H.	Boston, Mass.
Brown, Miss E. Louise	Dorchester, Mass.
Carter, James Richard	West Newton, Mass.
Chaffee, Clark J.	Boston, Mass.
Champney, Miss Lydia S.	Boston, Mass.
Chase, Dr. de Forest M.	Boston, Mass.
Cheney, Miss M. E.	Boston, Mass.
Child, Prof. F. J.	Cambridge, Mass.
Clarke, Miss Julia C.	Boston, Mass.
Cobb, John Storer	Boston, Mass.
COBB, Mrs. JOHN STORER	Brookline, Mass.
Codman, Dr. John T.	Boston, Mass.
Coggeshall, John H.	Lowell, Mass.
Coy, Mrs. Helen M.	Boston, Mass.
Crosbie, Robert	Dorchester, Mass.
Crosbie, Mrs. Robert	Dorchester, Mass.
Cutler, Dr. William C.	Chelsea, Mass.
Dabney, Miss Roxana L.	East Milton, Mass.
Dalton, Joseph G.	Boston, Mass.
Dawley, Mrs. Julia A.	Somerville, Mass.
Deering, Joseph Martin	Boston, Mass.
Dewey, Miss Mary E.	Boston, Mass.
Dickinson, Thomas A.	Worcester, Mass.
Dowling, Thomas	Malden, Mass.
Dunn, Miss Sarah	Boston, Mass.
Dunn, Miss Sarah E.	Dover, Mass.
Eaton, Mrs. C. H.	Somerville, Mass.
Edson, Jacob	Boston, Mass.
Ellis, John	Boston, Mass.
Farlow, Charles F.	Boston, Mass.
Ferguson, Miss Abbie M.	Malden, Mass.
Fellowes, Miss Charlotte	Boston, Mass.
Fellows, Mrs. Annie A.	Cambridge, Mass.

Forman, Mrs. Emily Shaw	Wellesley Hills, Mass.
French, Miss Mary G.	Boston, Mass.
FROTHINGHAM, EDWARD	Boston, Mass.
Frothingham, Rev. O. B.	Boston, Mass.
Frothingham, Mrs. C. A.	Boston, Mass.
FULLER, Miss ELIZA W.	Brookline, Mass.
Gardner, Robert	Malden, Mass.
Gaylord, F. A.	Boston, Mass.
Goddard, Miss Matilda	Boston, Mass.
Gorham, Dr. W. H.	Boston, Mass.
Gorham, Mrs. W. H.	Boston, Mass.
Gifford, Harry E.	Wollaston, Mass.
Gillett, Miss S. E.	Winsted, Conn.
Griswold, W. M.	Cambridge, Mass.
Guild, Miss Marguerite L.	Cambridge, Mass.
Hale, Frank W.	Boston, Mass.
Hale, Mrs. George S.	Boston, Mass.
Hale, Miss Sophia M.	South Boston, Mass.
Harmon, W. W.	Malden, Mass.
Haskell, Byron I.	Everett, Mass.
Heinzen, Karl F.	Roxbury, Mass.
Heywood, Joseph H.	Boston, Mass.
Hildreth, Mrs. Louisa M.	Boston, Mass.
Hill, Miss Ellen M.	Malden, Mass.
Hill, Mrs. F. A.	Malden, Mass.
Hobson, Charles H.	Lowell, Mass.
Hobson, Mrs. Chas. H.	Lowell, Mass.
Hodgdon, Dr. C. W.	Boston, Mass.
Hodges, Miss Emily C.	Boston, Mass.
Hodges, Miss Lucy M.	Boston, Mass.
Homans, Dr. John, 2nd	Boston, Mass.
Hooker, Miss Sarah H.	Boston, Mass.
Hughes, William Hastings	Milton, Mass.
Ingersoll, Mrs. Margaret E.	Boston, Mass.
INWOOD, ALEXANDER	Hartford, Conn.
Irving, Mrs. Anna M.	Boston, Mass.

Jennison, George H. . . .	Lowell, Mass.
Jones, Mrs. Helen M. . .	Dover, Mass.
Jones, Lewis L.	Boston, Mass.
Josselyn, Miss H. V. . . .	Wollaston, Mass.
Josselyn, Miss Mellissa . .	Wollaston, Mass.
Kehew, Mrs. William B. . .	Boston, Mass.
Kellogg, Dr. Edward B. . .	Boston, Mass.
Lawrence, Rosewell B. . .	Boston, Mass.
Leonard, Dr. Henry F. . .	Boston, Mass.
LINCOLN, Rev. HOSEA H. . .	East Boston, Mass.
Luscomb, Mrs. Hannah S. .	Boston, Mass.
Mack, Mrs. Thomas . . .	Boston, Mass.
Maffitt, Harry S. . . .	Boston, Mass.
Maffitt, Mrs. Mary A. . .	Roxbury, Mass.
Maynard, Mrs. Josephine H. .	Dorchester, Mass.
Merriam, Joseph W. . . .	Boston, Mass.
Metcalf, Miss Clara I. . .	Boston, Mass.
Milliken, Frederick L. . .	Ashmont, Mass.
Milliken, Mrs. Frederick L. .	Ashmont, Mass.
Moore, J. Lowell . . .	Boston, Mass.
Newhall, Mrs. E. J. F. . .	Boston, Mass.
Noyes, Dr. R. K. . . .	Boston, Mass.
Osborn, Mrs. Corra . . .	Boston, Mass.
Palmer, Dr. Sarah E. . .	Boston, Mass.
Parsons, Albert S. . . .	Lexington, Mass.
Parsons, Miss Georgiana . .	Boston, Mass.
Peirce, Henry B. . . .	Abington, Mass.
Peirce, Mrs. Henry B. . .	Abington, Mass.
Perkins, Miss L. S. W. . .	Concord, Mass.
Perkins, Thomas C. . . .	Brockton, Mass.
Petersen, Dr. Henrik G. . .	Boston, Mass.
Petersen, Mrs. Henrik G. . .	Boston, Mass.
Phelps, Mrs. Harriet N. . .	Boston, Mass.

Phillips, John G.	Dorchester, Mass.
Phillips, Mrs. John G.	Dorchester, Mass.
Prang, Louis	Roxbury, Mass.
Prang, Mrs. Louis	Roxbury, Mass.
Read, Dr. Robert M.	Boston, Mass.
Read, Mrs. Robert M.	Boston, Mass.
Richardson, Herbert A.	Lowell, Mass.
Ripley, Mrs. Thomas W.	Melrose Highlands, Mass.
Roath, Charles J.	East Boston, Mass.
Roath, Mrs. Charles J.	East Boston, Mass.
Roberts, Mrs. Susie W.	Boston, Mass.
Robinson, Reuben T.	North Cambridge, Mass.
Rogers, John S.	South Boston, Mass.
Russell, Miss Mary H.	Brookline, Mass.
Sammet, B. F.	Everett, Mass.
SAMMET, GEORGE ADAM	Everett, Mass.
Sauveur, Prof. L.	Roxbury, Mass.
Sayward, William H.	Boston, Mass.
Sears, Miss Mary E.	Boston, Mass.
Shaw, Henry	Allston, Mass.
Shepherd, Edwin M.	Malden, Mass.
SHUMWAY, Miss ELLEN M.	Boston, Mass.
Simonds, Mrs. Emeline B.	Charlestown, Mass.
SIMONDS, Dr. JAMES L.	Boston, Mass.
SMITH, Miss FRANCES A.	East Boston, Mass.
Smith, Miss Zilpha D.	East Boston, Mass.
Smith, George O.	Boston, Mass.
Smith, Dr. J. Heber	Boston, Mass.
SNOW, Miss ELLEN	Hartford, Conn.
Sprague, Miss Julia A.	Jamaica Plain, Mass.
Stebbins, Erastus	Chicopee, Mass.
Stevens, Abram W.	Cambridge, Mass.
Stewart, Miss Agnes	San Francisco, Cal.
Stewart, Miss J. Clara	San Francisco, Cal.
STURGIS, Mrs. MARGARET	Boston, Mass.
Sturgis, Dr. Russell	Boston, Mass.
Swain, Mrs. Eliza S.	Boston, Mass.

Swain, Dr. Mary L. . . . Boston, Mass.

Taussig, Prof. F. W. . . . Cambridge, Mass.
Thomas, Miss Catherine C. . Boston, Mass.
THOMAS, Mrs. MARY A. . . South Boston, Mass.
Thompson, Martha C. . . Boston, Mass.
Trask, Mrs. E. S. . . . Boston, Mass.
Turner, Mrs. John B. . . Boston, Mass.

Wade, Louis Francis . . Boston, Mass.
Wales, Miss Mary Ann . . Boston, Mass.
Walther, G. J. . . . . Jamaica Plain, Mass.
Warner, Charles Q. . . . Northampton, Mass.
Weaver, Benjamin P. . . Boston, Mass.
Weaver, Mrs. Benjamin P. . Boston, Mass.
Wells, Miss Julia A. . . . Boston, Mass.
Wescott, Dr. William H. . . South Boston, Mass.
Wescott, Mrs. William H. . South Boston, Mass.
Wesselhoeft, Dr. Walter . . Cambridge, Mass.
Wheate, A. F. . . . . Manchester, N. H.
Wheeler, Mrs. S. L. . . . Boston, Mass.
Whitney, Miss Maria . . Cambridge, Mass.
Wilder, Dr. Sarah E. . . Boston, Mass.
Willey, Mrs. P. S. . . . Boston, Mass.
Wolff, Miss Eleanore F. . . Boston, Mass.
WOODMAN, Mrs. CHARLOTTE F. Cambridge, Mass.

Zakrzewska, Dr. Mary E. . . Jamaica Plain, Mass.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

THE NEW ENGLAND CREMATION SOCIETY is formed for the purpose of disseminating sound and enlightened views respecting the incineration of the dead; advocating and promoting the substitution of this method for that of burial; and providing facilities for the cremation of its deceased members.

As it is evident that, notwithstanding the extended interest in this subject, progress in the adoption of this system must, for some time to come, depend largely upon the active personal effort of individuals who appreciate its value, the council of the society cordially invites the co-operation of all who are in accord with its objects.

The conditions of membership are: —

I. — The signing of a declaration that the applicant is in sympathy with the objects of the society, and desires to become a member thereof.

II. — The payment of an annual subscription of three dollars for not more than twelve successive years, or of a single subscription of thirty dollars.

The arrangements necessary for the cremation of the body of a deceased member are: —

I. — An application in writing from a friend or representative of the deceased member. (See page 34).

II. — If the death occurred in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Connecticut, the application must be accompanied with the usual burial permit, and a certificate from the medical examiner of the district. (See page 35).

III. — If the death occurred in any state other than the three above mentioned, the application must be accompanied with the certificate on page 36, which must be sworn to before a notary public or a justice of the peace.

IV. — For purposes of cremation, a heavy or expensive coffin in undesirable. A serviceable and sightly one can be provided by the society at small cost. For a public ceremony prior to the transportation of the body, a casket more highly decorated can be provided by the friends of the deceased. This should be large enough to contain the coffin above mentioned, which can be afterwards removed for conveyance to the place of incineration. In the absence of special directions to the contrary, the body will be incinerated in the coffin, as received.

V. — The body to be cremated should be dressed as simply as possible, and metallic buttons or other fastenings should not be used.

VI. — Two persons, on behalf of the friends of the deceased, are expected to be present while the cremation is in progress.

NOTE.—The crematory used by the society is that of The Massachusetts Cremation Society, and the most direct way to reach it from Boston is by train from Park Square to the Forest Hills station. This is also the terminus of the Forest Hills electric cars from Boston, and from this point to the crematory is a walk of about twelve minutes, or a ride of about five minutes in the public carriages, which are always in waiting at the station.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR THE CREMATION OF A DECEASED MEMBER.

TO THE SECRETARY
OF
THE NEW ENGLAND CREMATION SOCIETY,
P. O. Box, 2436, Boston, Mass.

I, of hereby give notice that of a member of The New England Cremation Society died on the day of 189 , and I request said society to undertake the cremation of h body.

The necessary certificates are herewith enclosed.

(Name)

CERTIFICATE

REQUIRED WHEN THE DEATH OCCURRED IN MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND, OR CONNECTICUT.

STATE OF ,
COUNTY OF .

I, , who am duly appointed and qualified as the medical examiner for the district of said county of , hereby certify that I have viewed the body of , who died in within said district upon the day of 189 ; that I have made personal inquiry into the cause and manner of h said death, and am of opinion that no further examination or judicial inquiry concerning the same is necessary.

Witness my hand this day of , 189 .

(Signature)

Medical Examiner for the district of the County of

CERTIFICATE

REQUIRED IN CASES OF DEATH IN STATES OTHER THAN MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND, OR CONNECTICUT.

STATE OF , }
COUNTY OF . }

I, , of in the county of and State of , hereby certify that I am a physician and graduate of , the same being a legally organized medical college; and I, , of , in the county of and State of , hereby certify that I am a physician and graduate of , the same being a legally organized medical college, and that I was, during h last illness, the attending physician of , who died in , in the county of and State of , on the day of , 189 ; and we both certify that the cause of h said death was ; and that we are of opinion that no further examination or judicial inquiry concerning h said death is necessary.

Dated at this day of 189 .

NOTE. — The above must be sworn before a Justice of the Peace or a Notary Public.

FORM PREPARED TO ENABLE THOSE WHO APPROVE OF CREMATION TO EXPRESS FORMALLY THEIR JUDGMENT AND DESIRE.

In the firm belief that the general welfare will be promoted by the substitution of incineration for inhumation as a means of disposing of the dead, I hereby solemnly express my desire and request that, as soon as practicable after my decease, my body may be cremated, under the auspices of The New England Cremation Society, at the Crematorium of The Massachusetts Cremation Society, or such other convenient place as the said New England Cremation Society shall direct.

(*Name*)

(*Witness*)

The above form is merely a request, and cannot be enforced against unwilling survivors. It would be well, therefore, that the signers should ascertain that executors or friends are willing to see that the instructions are complied with. The form should be signed in duplicate and one copy mailed to the secretary of the society, and the other placed in the hands of one who will see that the request is carried into execution.

The New England Cremation Society.

P. O. Box 2436, Boston, Mass.

Being in sympathy with its objects, I hereby apply for active membership with The New England Cremation Society.

(NAME).....

(ADDRESS) .....

(DATE).....

PAPER READ BY MRS. ALICE N. LINCOLN,

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND CREMATION SOCIETY,

DECEMBER 19, 1893.

IT is with great diffidence that I approach the subject which we are met together to discuss this evening. I am sure there are many among the audience who have thought more deeply on this subject, or have considered more carefully the value of cremation, than I,—but there is one reason, a sacred one, which gives me the right to speak reverently of what it seems to me are its essential points, and at the same time to enter a plea for its adoption.

Some years ago, when the whole question of cremation was less understood, and therefore less in favor, than it is to-day, a dear relative of mine, one of the nearest and dearest there can be to any one, undertook to investigate and see for herself what were the methods of cremation employed in Philadelphia, where, as you know, a building for the purpose has been in existence for some time. The result of her investigation

was that she thoroughly believed in and endorsed the methods of the Pennsylvania society, and left, at her death, a request that her remains might be disposed of in this manner, provided those nearest to her were willing that this disposition should be made.

It is needless to say that her wishes were complied with, and it is in the interest of a cause which she had much at heart, and in which she fully believed, that I am here to-night.

It seems to me that there are two points which we need to consider in regard to cremation: First, the way it affects the minds of individuals; Second, the way in which it affects the community at large.

We cannot enter upon any new path, or depart from any established precedent, without shocking the minds of a great many who have become used to the old order of things. For this reason, we need to deal very tenderly and carefully with those who do not agree with us, when we are making any innovation, or departing from any fixed standard. We need to be very tolerant of feelings which have grown with the growth, and formed part of the very lives of our neighbors. To many it doubtless seems a dreadful thing, notwithstanding the self-devoted words of scripture, "though I give my body to be burned," that there should in this age, in any way, be a wholesale destruction of the human frame, a literal rendering of "ashes to ashes, dust to dust." Then, too,

we have to combat the tenderest side of human affections. These mortal remains, which we would destroy, are those outward forms which in life were so dear to us. Those were the hands we pressed, the locks we smoothed, the lineaments we loved.

Let us then, I repeat, be very tender and patient with those who are not willing at once to consign all that is dear to the flames, instead of to the tomb. It is a different matter when we come to the other side of the question, namely, that which concerns public health.

Here indeed, we do not need to pause, for there can be no hesitation between the danger to health from the slow, lingering process of decay, and the absolutely sanitary conditions of cremation. Take the cases of contagious disease alone. It is well known that clothing, buried with those who have died of infectious diseases, has been the means of spreading dangerous epidemics over whole districts, when by chance or carelessness, after the lapse of years, such clothing was disinterred. A sad case of this occurred in the small village of Eyam, in Derbyshire, England, which was stricken by a sore visitation of the plague in 1666. The virulence of the disease was such that in a parish of seventy-six families, two hundred and fifty-nine persons died, and ninety-one years afterwards, in 1757, when five laboring men were digging up land near the plague-graves, and came upon what appeared to be some linen, they all

sickened with typhus fever, from which three of them died, and no less than seventy persons in the parish were carried off by the same disease.

We cannot, perhaps, recall any instance in more modern times, when cause and effect were so distinctly discernible, and yet it must have occurred to all of us, that in cases of small-pox, cholera, scarlet fever, diphtheria, we were incurring a serious risk to others, by permitting the ordinary forms of burial.

I hope some of us may live to see the day when it shall be ordered by law, and sanctioned by public opinion, that the body of any person dying of a contagious disease, pronounced such by a reputable physician, shall be cremated, as a protection to society, and in pursuance of the laws of health.

It may be too much to expect that public opinion will sanction the annihilation of the human body in cases of death from non-contagious disease, but as a safeguard to the community, it will be a most valuable means of preventing the spread of contagion, if cremation can be universally adopted in those cases where death has occurred from contagious sickness.

One word as to the method itself. It was new to me, though it may be familiar to many of you. I was called upon to face it under circumstances which were sad and unusual, and it is not too much to say that I regarded it with dread.

To reassure those of you who may be unfamiliar

with the process, it is a pleasure to me to state that after all the preparations were made, and we stood in silence watching the rosy glow which played over the white surface of the retort, a feeling came to me of awe, certainly, but also of peace and rest. There was something so spiritual, so elevating, in the absolute purity of the intense heat, that it seemed to all of us who stood there, far less appalling or depressing than the blackness of an open grave, and as we slowly turned away from the scene, and left the "cleansing fires" to do their work, while there was certainly sadness in our hearts, the feeling of dread had vanished, and we were content to know that the wishes of one we loved dearly had been fulfilled, in a way that seemed fitting and appropriate.

I shall leave it for others, far abler than I, to show the religious side of the practice of cremation. That it has a religious side, none of us can deny, for it embodies one of the highest principles of religion, the consideration of the welfare of our fellow-men.

This movement, it seems to me, is intended to protect the people against a danger of which they are not fully cognizant themselves.

They may be slow in acknowledging it, but in time this cleanly, healthful method of disposing of the dead will be sure to commend itself to many members of the community, and precedents are not lacking, to show how greatly this system was in favor in times past.

To sum up briefly: —

I. We need to uphold the cause, because we believe it a good one, one which will benefit rich and poor alike, by tending to preserve the health of the community.

II. We need to be very tolerant towards those who do not agree with us, because we are contending against deeply-rooted customs and sentiments.

III. Most of all, we need to show those who are disposed to question the desirability of cremation, that it is a step forward, an effort in the right direction, and moreover that it is in no sense opposed to the teaching of the Christian religion.

When we shall have established these points, I think we can safely say that this cause, like many another which has needed to be studied in order to be understood, will be recognized and appreciated upon its own merits, and will then cease to need any support or countenance from those of us who are willing to come forward as its advocates today.

REMARKS OF DR. JAMES R. CHADWICK,

PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CREMATION SOCIETY,

At the Annual Meeting of The New England Cremation Society, Dec. 19, 1893.

I TOLD your president that I would come here to-night to explain to you the details of the plans being carried out by the society over which I preside, to cremate the dead. I felt it a duty, as well as a pleasure, thus to lay before the members of this society the projects of The Massachusetts Cremation Society, because the revival of the latter society is entirely due to the initiative of several members of your society, and because our success in securing subscriptions from the public is chiefly due to the missionary work of your society and its president. As many of you already know, we have raised the $25,000 of capital stock called for in an original appeal. This will be sufficient to pay for the land, and two retorts and the building to contain them, and half build the chapel. We have increased the capital stock to $50,000, which will be amply sufficient to

improve our grounds and complete the chapel. We invite your co-operation now, as we have enjoyed it in the past, in raising this fund.

Before bringing to your consideration the plans of our building, however, I wish to show to you a pamphlet which I recently picked up in an old book-store and to read to you one or two paragraphs. It is entitled, "Remarks on the Dangers and Duties of Sepulture, or Security for the Living, with Respect and Repose for the Dead, by a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Boston, 1823." This is the paper in which Dr. Jacob Bigelow, the most learned man that we ever had in the ranks of the medical profession of this city, inaugurated his crusade against intramural interment in the community, which resulted in 1830 in the establishment of Mt. Auburn Cemetery, the first of our rural cemeteries. His demonstration of the dangers to the living from the burial of the dead within the city is convincing, but he did not foresee that in a little more than sixty years the same dangers would be looming up in connection with the then rural cemeteries, owing to the rapid extension of the city. Were he living to-day, I find reason to believe that he would be as eager to effect the further advance in which we are engaged as he was in the earlier movement. In one place in this pamphlet, after pointing out various measures which might be adopted in the cemeteries to hasten the decomposition of bodies, and the return of their constituent parts to the

earth, he says, "where this mode is adopted, the grave need not be more than four feet deep, or if it should be thought preferable, the bones might be burnt, and the ashes only preserved in a common receptacle, or be blended with the parent earth. Is there any more wisdom or philosophy, filial piety or humanity, public or private utility, or religion, in enclosing in iron, stone, or lead, a putrescent human body, as if forever there to remain unchanged, than in treating a similar and equal mass of any other animal matter in the same way? Is it not rather to counteract the constitution and course of nature, as if we were wiser than their author."

Further on, in sustaining his plea for a speedy return of the constituent elements of the body to the earth—and surely cremation is the speediest way of effecting this—he quotes these eloquent words from a sermon that had been recently preached from the pulpit: "And if the spirit, on leaving its earthly dwelling, do not lose all interest in its crumbling tenement, would it not rather see the child of earth clasped again to the sweet bosom of its mother, to be again incorporated with its substance, to become again the theatre of beauty; the medium of enjoyment; the recipient of light; that it should again assume a form attractive and lovely; than that it should lie and moulder away in darkness and silence, the source of disgust to strangers, and of terror to those whom we may still love."

LAKE LIBRARY

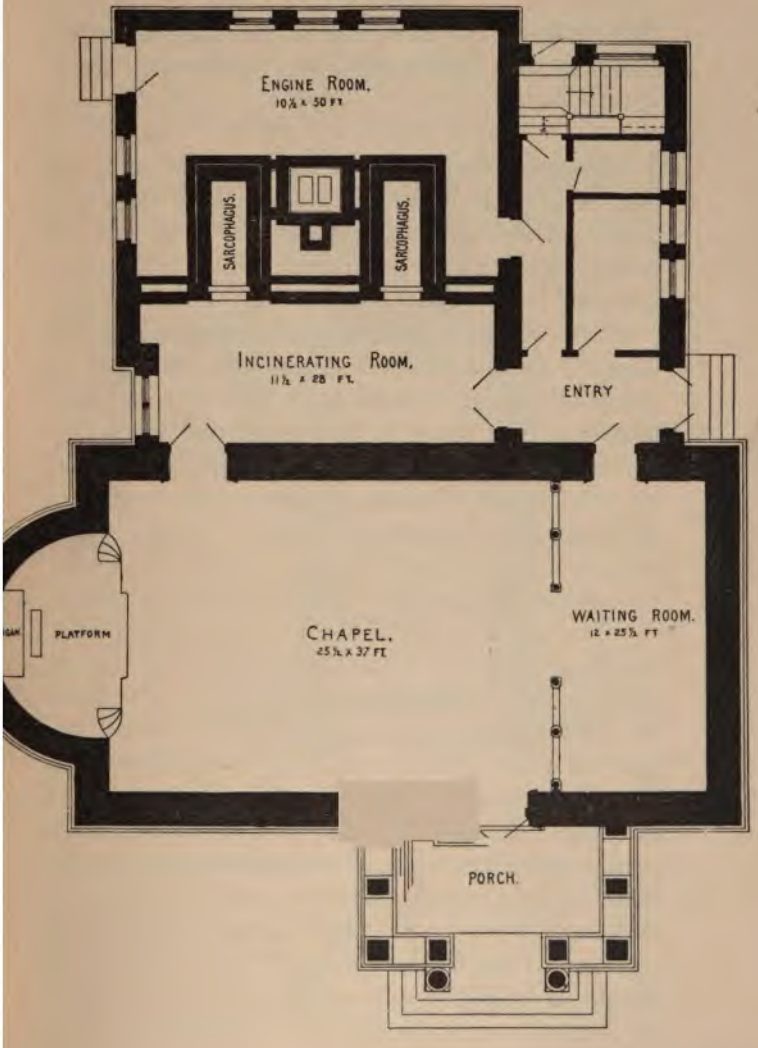
Dr. Bigelow closes his paper with a paraphrase of the Latin epitaph of Simon Peter, which seems to me worthy of perpetuation: —

"Here lies,
Under the pure and breezy skies,
The Dust
Of Simon Peter, the Devout, the Just,
Doctor of Medicine.
At his request
He sleeps in earth's sweet, wholesome breast,
Rather than in a noisome cemetery
Under a church, where all the great they bury.
''T would be,' he said, 'a sin
Past all enduring,—
Which to commit he was unwilling,—
Should he, who, while alive, got fame and bread
The sick by curing,
Entirely change his hand and go, when dead,
The well to killing.'"

The building, of which I here show you the plan, consists of a crematory proper and a chapel, in the walls of which will be niches for the permanent reception of urns containing the ashes of those who have been cremated. Both buildings are constructed of felsite and covered with a roof of red slate; the walls of the chapel have been carried up to the first band of limestone; the structure containing the retorts* is almost finished and will certainly be ready for use by the end of this month.

To ensure technical accuracy in my description of our furnaces, I have secured from our expert,

* Sarcophagi, as they are called in the accompanying plan.

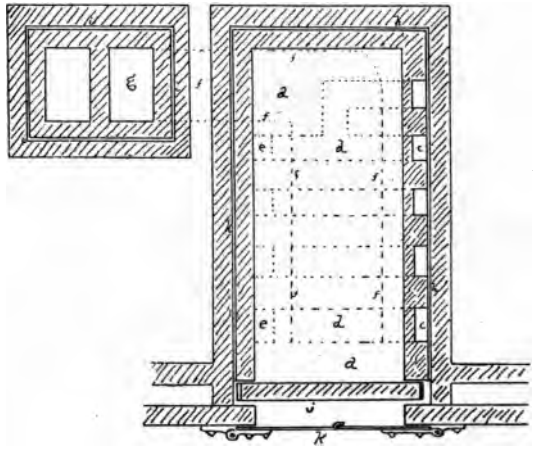

ENGINE ROOM.
10½ x 50 FT.
SARCOPHAGUS.
SARCOPHAGUS.
INCINERATING ROOM.
11½ x 28 FT.
ENTRY
PLATFORM
CHAPEL.
25½ x 37 FT.
WAITING ROOM.
12 x 25½ FT
PORCH.

Prof. Robert H. Richards, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the following statement:—

"The two retorts of The Massachusetts Cremation Society are built of red brick lined with fire-brick. They are strongly bound with iron to resist both end and side thrust. The retorts are provided with underflues to prevent soakage. Each retort has its own chimney, which are united together in one stack, and also has three No. 2 Ames oil burners to furnish its heat, and one such burner in the stack to give draft and secondary combustion. The oil burners are operated by an eight horse power boiler, a six horse power engine, a fan blower, an oil pump and column. The boiler also furnishes heat to the building. An oil tank capable of holding 1,400 gallons of oil has been provided.

"The roof consists of three courses of fire brick on edge, having a total thickness of 14 inches, above which is placed a bed of sand. The floor of the retort is made of 4-inch thick fire tiles, pointed with a special cement, at the point marked (*b*) the burners deliver their flames, which, after striking the opposite wall, are deflected downwards, doing the work of combustion and distillation. The gaseous products pass out through five small flues, (*c d e*), into the large flue below (*f*), and thence to the stack (*g*). The stack burner is placed at (*l*). Each flue in the stack is 33 inches x 12½ inches, with a 9-inch partition

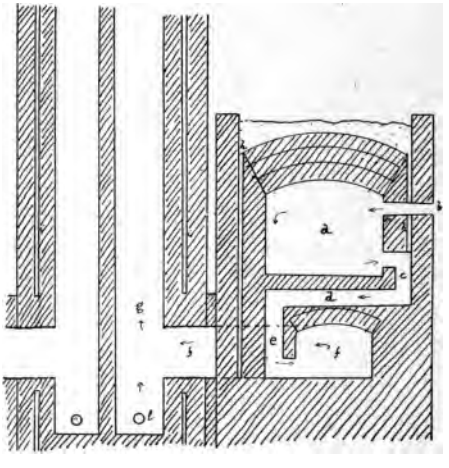
wall between the two. The walls of the stack are 9 inches of fire brick, 3 inches air space (*i*), and 8 inches of red brick. The area of the flues at the top of the stack is 23 inches x 12½ inches, and the walls are 4½ inches of fire brick, and 8 inches of red brick. The top of the stack is 35 feet above the floor of the retort. The retorts



have double doors, the inner door (*j*) is of fire tiles 5 inches thick, hooped with iron and suspended by a wire rope which passes over pulleys to a counter weight. This rope serves as a means of raising and lowering the doors.

"The outer doors (*k*) are of wrought iron and are hung upon hinges.

"Each of the retorts (*a*) is 8 feet 6 inches long and 3 feet wide, 30 inches high to the spring of the arch and 36 inches to the crown of the arch. The side walls are 9 inches thick of fire brick, 2 inches air space (*h*), 2½ inches of fire brick and 8 inches of red brick. The end wall contains in



thickness 12 inches of fire brick, 3 inches air space (*h*), and 8 inches of red brick.

"The process of incineration begins by heating the stack for fifteen minutes, then the retort is heated for fifty minutes with all the burners lighted. It is then cooled by shutting off the retort burners for ten minutes or less, according to the color preferred at the time the remains are to be placed in the retort. After the remains have

been placed in the retort and the doors closed, the three burners are lighted and supplied with a minimum of oil, and about half gate of air for a quarter of an hour. The oil and air are gradually increased. As soon as the process shows that it is safe to do so the stack burner may be taken off. As soon as the process is completed the retort burners are shut off, and the retort given until the next day to cool before removing the ashes. In case of need the ashes may be removed at once and another incineration take place."

From this you will observe that, instead of adopting any of the systems used in other crematories, we heat our retorts and incinerate the bodies by sprays of atomized petroleum, according to a method owned by the Ames Oil-Burner Co., of North Easton, Mass. By this means we can obtain a temperature of 2,500 to 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit, only half of which, however, is needed for our purposes.

In one respect this is a radical change from the method which we originally intended to adopt, and which was described by Miss Mary B. Comyns in her paper published by us in our prospectus as follows: —

"The body, simply clad, and placed in a coffin, is not put into the *fire* as many persons suppose, but into a so-called chamber of clay, little larger than itself, which is wholly closed except for a few small perforations in the top, for the escape of the gases, which are conducted through the fire and consumed. This chamber is heated to a temperature

of about two thousand degrees. *Nothing* but heated air touches the body. It lies *absolutely undisturbed*, maintaining its perfect shape until the last moment, when the beautiful rosy color it has gradually assumed changes to white, and it instantly falls together in the form of pure ashes."

As Professor Richards has well said, a body cannot be reduced to ashes without flame. "In order to burn animal matter so as to leave a white ash, oxygen must be admitted to the retort, and if oxygen is admitted then there is flame. The retort does not exist that can burn animal remains to a white ash without oxygen or without flame. In manufacturing animal charcoal, large quantities of which are used in refining sugar, a closed air-tight retort is used. The result is animal charcoal, which is perfectly black. The retorts used for cremation all admit oxygen and all have flame, else the carbon could not be consumed."

ABSTRACT OF AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE MASSACHUSETTS UNDERTAKERS' ASSOCIATION, MARCH, 1893.

By JOHN STORER COBB,

PRESIDENT OF THE NEW ENGLAND CREMATION SOCIETY.

TODAY we have not time to consider, even in the most cursory manner, the various methods by which, at different periods, diverse peoples and nations have endeavored to dispose of their dead. The exigencies of the hour demand the most rigid restriction of our attention to the system of cremation or incineration, and more particularly the means which have, in recent years, been contrived for putting this system into operation.

Outside of christendom, whenever fire has been used as the agent for the reduction of human bodies, the operation has always been conducted upon the open pyre. This procedure was, however, fraught with most serious dangers to mourners and attendants, as well as to those residing within a considerable radius of the spot where it was conducted. With advancing civilization it was, therefore, given up, and superseded by inhumation so completely that, from the fourth

century to the middle of the sixteenth, we do not, I think, find any mention of it in European literature. About this time Sir Thomas Browne's interesting discourse upon urn-burial was published, and created a new interest in the topic. This, however, soon subsided and the matter appears to have passed again from the mind of man until the French Revolution. During this period an investigation was ordered by the French authorities, but it was not followed by any practical result.

In 1822, much curiosity was aroused by the incineration of an Englishman's body upon the Italian shore. The poet Shelley and his companion, Williams, were drowned by the upsetting of a boat in the Ligurian Sea, and their bodies were washed ashore near Leghorn. The quarantine laws of Tuscany ordained that all waste material drifting in from the sea should be burned. These bodies were subject to the authority of this decree, and Byron was thus enjoined by law to perform for his friend a ceremony which each had promised should be carried out for the one who died first; but in the conduct of which each expected to meet with powerful opposition, both on the part of the people and the government. Leigh Hunt and Edward John Trelawny assisted at the crematorial rites; and those of you who would like to read a graphic and somewhat minute description of the proceedings, cannot do better than consult the account which the latter has left

in his important and interesting reminiscences of that period.

From this time an important change takes place. Scientific thought is focussed upon the subject. The noxious effects of burial in the earth are disclosed, and the deleterious results of burning upon the open pyre are enunciated. Inventive skill is directed to the fabrication of a contrivance, by means of which the inevitable process may be encompassed in the shortest possible time, without a solitary issue which is not beneficient. With the adoption of the apparatus constructed by Friedrich Siemens, of Dresden, may be said to have commenced the history of what may be called the modern movement.

It is true that, in India, under the orders of Sir Cecil Beadon, an attempt had been previously made to construct an incinerator, with the view of abolishing the open pyre within the limits of the city of Calcutta. This, however, proved so unreliable and inefficient that it cannot be regarded as a serious interference with the older method. Since that time the subject has been much agitated among the Hindoos, who appear to be nearly ready for a modern system; but, so far, none of those adopted here and in Europe seems to have been put into practice among them.

Since the perfection of the Siemens furnace several other appliances have been invented, each with the idea of improving upon its predecessors. The chief systems among the stationary contri-

vances are those of Siemens, Venini, Schneider, and Gorini, in Europe, and those of Davis and Ames in this country. Besides these, there are in operation two transportable cinerators, one invented by Captain Domenico Rey, of the Italian army, and the other by Mr. J. Swiecianowski, an engineer of repute in Warsaw. These have been brought to a high state of excellence, both as regards weight, bulk, and rapidity of execution. They will probably play an important part upon the world's future battlefields, and will, without doubt, be brought extensively into requisition at times of epidemic visitation, so that the bodies of the victims may be disposed of within the precincts of the hospital or other place where the death occurred. The apparatus can be brought to the body, and in this way may be avoided the possibility of spreading contagion by the conveyance of infected bodies through public streets and thoroughfares to their final resting places.

It is hardly necessary to tell you that, whenever and wherever the disintegrating process is carried on, heat is the only agent by which the intended effect can be accomplished. In the absence of heat, a human body, like any other substance, will resist all the attempts of time to produce a change in the combination of its particles. You may bury your dead in the earth or in the depths of the ocean; you may place them on the open pyre or in the receiving chamber of the cinerator; it matters not what means you may employ, heat is

the only agent by which your design can be accomplished. The sole question for solution is what may be popularly termed the amount or quantity of heat that shall be utilized. Temperature alone distinguishes incineration from inhumation.

Upon the degree of heat brought into service depends the length of time that shall be consumed in carrying out the operation, and upon the length of time thus employed depends the nature or character of the effects produced upon the atmosphere which has to be inhaled by the inhabitants of the neighborhood in which the process is conducted. When bodies are placed in the ground no more heat can be brought into requisition than the natural temperature of the surrounding earth. This will vary according to the nature of the soil; but, under the most favorable conditions, will the potential calidity be low, and the time required for the fulfilment of nature's decree must be measured by years.

Opportunity is thus afforded for the formation of alien combinations among the gaseous and liquid components of the body, many of which are highly noxious, and find their way into the water which must be drunk and the air which must be breathed by those who survive. So certain is this to be the case that some of the highest chemical and medical authorities pronounce it impossible to bury a body in the earth without poisoning the adjacent air and water.

There are in existence numerous records tending to show that this statement is not exaggerated. We read of the introduction of a pestilence by the disinterment of the bodies of the victims of a former parallel infliction. We have seen the precariousness of attempts to bring up healthy children in the vicinity of graveyards, even though burial therein has long been put an end to. We are told of the outbreak of contagious disease through the drinking of water which has its origin in the vicinage of cemeteries, and we have the unmistakable testimony of competent witnesses, introducing us to cities, of which the different portions have separate and distinct supplies of drinking water, one of which parts have been decimated by the plague, while the inhabitants of the other have enjoyed immunity from the scourge.

It is a matter of considerable surprise that, after the question has been so diligently ventilated in recent years, any civilized community should be without the means of effecting, with healthfulness, the removal of its dead. With pleasure, it can now be said that the commonwealth in which we live is about to remove from itself the reproach of being in the background in this matter. The recent reorganization of The Massachusetts Cremation Society has been very happy in its results. Land has been purchased and there is reason to hope that the autumn of the present year may find us provided with facilities for putting incineration into practice.

I have been told that it would be useless for me to address an association of this character upon a topic of this nature. The warning has been given that the interests of your profession would close your ears to the arguments in favor of a change in the system which you are engaged in carrying out. Upon this aspect of the case not much need be said. Should the advocated change involve a loss of business and a consequent diminution of income to you, I should still discuss this matter with you, in complete assurance that, if I can bring home to you the fact that the present method of burial is hurtful in its effects upon the living, and that by a definite different system all possibility of harm will be avoided and the object better and more reverently accomplished, you will enroll yourselves among the promoters of the change.

But, as a matter of fact, no such sacrifice will be required. I admit freely that a simplification of funeral ceremonial is in the highest degree desirable, and my sympathies are with those who are endeavoring to bring within the domain of reason and decorum the extravagances which too frequently disfigure the rites with which we lay away our dead. Still the fact remains that, although by the adoption of cremation expense can be, and usually is, appreciably diminished, there is yet nothing in the system of itself which shall prevent the utmost lavishness of display, if this be desired.

But, after all, this even is of importance secondary to that of the method itself. The civilized communities of the world are today pursuing a plan which, upon reliable testimony, is shown to be pernicious. We advocate a change by which we believe that good and healthful results may be substituted for those which are bad. I have not made any attempt to present the arguments that may be set forth upon the merits of the question. I have simply tried to direct your attention to the disposition of our dead by means of cremation; and I hope that I have succeeded in doing so in such a way as shall lead you to bestow some further earnest thought upon the matter, and I will venture to express my belief that your reflections will lead you to the judgment that, by advocating, as a body, the system which we are endeavoring to promote, you will be enhancing the welfare of humanity.

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